August 29, 2013

Board of Managers
Coon Creek Watershed District
C/o Tim Kelly, Administrator
12301 Central Avenue Northeast Suite 100
Blaine, MN 55434

Dear Chair and Managers:

I am pleased to inform you that the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) has approved the Coon Creek Watershed District’s (CCWD) revised Watershed Management Plan (Plan) at its regular meeting held on August 29, 2013. For your records I have enclosed a copy of the signed Board Order that documents approval of the Plan. Please be advised that the CCWD must adopt and implement the Plan within 120 days of the date of the Order, in accordance with MN Statutes 103B.231, Subd. 10.

The managers, staff, advisory and technical committee members, and all others involved in the planning process are to be commended for developing a plan that clearly presents water management goals, actions, and priorities of the watershed. With continued implementation of your Plan, the protection and management of the water resources within the watershed will be greatly enhanced to the benefit of the residents. The Board looks forward to working with you as you implement this Plan and document its outcomes.

Please contact Mary Peterson of our staff at 651-296-0874, or at the central office address for further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Brian Napstad
Chair

Enclosure

cc’s on next page
cc: Tim Kelly, Administrator
    Rob Sip, MDA (via email)
    John (Jack) Gleason, DNR (via email)
    Juline Holleran, MPCA (via email)
    Chris Klucas, MPCA (via email)
    William Moore, Metropolitan Council (via email)
    Judy Sventek, Metropolitan Council (via email)
    Pat Bailey, MDH (via email)
    Nick Tiedeken, MNDOT (via email)
    Jim Haertel, BWSR (via email)
    Mary Peterson, BWSR (via email)
    File Copy
ORDER
APPROVING
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PLAN

In the Matter of the review of the
Watershed Management Plan for the Coon
Creek Watershed District, pursuant to
Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231,
Subdivision 9.

Whereas, the Board of Managers of the Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD) submitted a
Watershed Management Plan (Plan) on June 4, 2013 to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil
Resources (Board) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 9, and;

Whereas, the Board has completed its review of the Plan;

Now Therefore, the Board hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Watershed District Establishment. The CCWD was established in 1959. The Plan is
the third generation plan required by the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act,
Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103B and the fourth required under the Watershed Act,
Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103D.

2. Authority to Plan. The Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act requires the
preparation of a watershed management plan for the subject watershed area which meets
the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.201 to 103B.251. The current
District watershed management plan was approved by Board Order on October 27,
2004. The watershed management plan may be revised according to Minnesota Statutes
Section 103B.231, Subd. 9.

3. Nature of the Watershed. The CCWD is located exclusively in Anoka County in the
north-central portion of the Minneapolis – St. Paul seven county metropolitan area. The
Sunrise, Upper Rum, and Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organizations
border it to the north, the Mississippi River to the southwest and the Rice Creek
Watershed District to the south and east. Six boundary amendments have occurred since the current Plan was approved in 2004. The CCWD now includes parts of seven cities; Andover, Blaine, Columbus, Coon Rapids, Fridley, Ham Lake and Spring Lake Park covering approximately 107 square miles. It lies within the Anoka Lake Plain portion of the Anoka Sand Plain. The soils are primarily fine sands and the regional water table is very shallow. Population grew by 22% since 2010 and is projected to grow another 10% by 2020 to total approximately 180,000. Most of the land use changes have and will involve a conversion of agricultural and vacant land to development.

4. **Plan Development and Review.** The Plan was prepared in accordance with Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410 and Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103B. The CCWD conducted an open and meaningful public participation process in the development of the Plan. On October 22, 2012, the CCWD released a rough draft of the Plan for review. Over 240 comments were received. The Planning Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reconvened to review the plan and comments. In December 2012, the CCWD approved the draft Plan for review and comment as required under Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 7. The draft Plan was distributed to 27 individuals and agencies on January 16, 2013 for the 60-day review and comment period. A public hearing was held on April 22, 2013. The Plan was revised to incorporate suggested changes and additions from the partners and state agency reviewers. The CCWD provided a written response to all comments. The draft Plan was submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on June 4, 2012 for the official 90-day final review.

5. **Local Review.** The CCWD distributed copies of the draft Plan to local units of government for their 60-day review. Comments were received from the City of Coon Rapids (41 comments), RFC Engineering, Inc. (107), City of Spring Lake Park (9), Anoka Conservation District (27), Anoka County (5), City of Andover (3), and a citizen advisory member (3). The CCWD convened a TAC meeting to present, discuss, and incorporate these comments into the final draft. Written responses were sent to all those commenting during the 60-day review. A public hearing was convened on April 22, 2013 for the comments made on the draft Plan. The final draft Plan was submitted to BWSR on June 4, 2013 for the 90-day review and shows strikeouts and additions to the Plan as a result of the comments received.

6. **Metropolitan Council Review.** The Council commented on the CCWD’s draft Plan during the 60-day comment period in a letter dated March 14, 2013, and stated they had no further comments on the Plan for the 90-day comment period. The Plan is consistent with Council policies, is detailed and comprehensive and should be an excellent framework to manage the water resources in the watershed.

7. **Department of Agriculture Review.** The MDA did not comment on the Plan.
8. **Department of Health Review.** The MDH stated that they did not have any comments for this plan revision.

9. **Department of Natural Resources Review.** The DNR provided comments during the 60-day review and the CCWD responded in writing to all comments. The MDNR provided comments during the 90-day review and the CCWD provided a written response. MDNR commented on placing more emphasis on conservation drainage approaches and natural channel design principals rather than just dredging and stabilizing with rip-rap. The CCWD agreed and will consider and facilitate construction of ditches where such design approaches facilitate the hydrologic performance for that segment of ditch, provided the cost can be adequately addressed. MDNR recommended including wetland restoration as a strategy to meet its goals. The CCWD is very interested in wetland restoration and will support as well as conduct wetland restoration where these is a reasonable chance of the restoration succeeding and able to be sustained.

10. **Pollution Control Agency Review.** The PCA did not provide comments during the 60-day review period. The MPCA provided comments during the 90-day review. Most of the comments were related to updating or correcting information. The MPCA stated that overall it was a very thorough report. MPCA suggested the CCWD consider monitoring lakes and wetlands for Chloride. The CCWD will review and begin the process to monitor for Chloride on the lakes within the District. MPCA also suggested a discussion on the status of septic systems in the watershed. The CCWD responded that there is a discussion of the occurrence of the MUSA line within the District in the assessment. If the request is an inventory of the condition of the drainage fields the CCWD will not be doing that at this time. This issue was never raised at any point during the planning process. However, the CCWD will consider septic systems in the 2013-2015 study of the effects of declining surficial ground water on ground water driven surface water resources.

11. **Department of Transportation Review.** The MDOT did not comment on the Plan.

12. **Board of Water and Soil Resources Review.** BWSR staff provided written comments during the 60-day review. Staff found the Plan to be very comprehensive and includes resources goals, objectives and strategies. The comments focused on plan structure to provide useful implementation and to allow clarity and focus for partnering cities, agencies and the general public. BWSR staff met with CCWD staff to review comments and discuss Plan highlights, priorities and edit revisions. Staff also attended the TAC meeting where the CCWD staff presented all the comments for partner discussion and input. All comments submitted were thoughtfully considered and responded to by the CCWD.
13. **Plan Summary and Highlights.** The Plan is a very comprehensive and includes resource goals, objectives and strategies. The Plan includes an Executive Summary that contains highlights from the Plan. It also includes a Plan Summary that is a more concise information piece of the larger Plan to better inform the public and help guide local policy makers, LGUs and agency resource partners during the implementation of the Plan.

The Mission Goals are the primary focus of the District programs and activities and are drawn from their mission statement. For the period of 2013-2023, the District’s focus will be on:

1. Preventing flooding
2. Improving water quality in impaired or impacted waters
3. Maintaining and enhancing water quality in waters that are not impaired.

The Issue Goals are growing in importance as a result of current economic and demographic trends and in response to more recent legislative actions and mandates. During this Plan these issues will be:

1. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
2. Charges in Precipitation
3. The decline in surficial Ground water and the effect on Ground water dependent resources.

The implementation priorities are the focused mission goals, include targeted subwatershed and special management areas, and are organized around these categories:

1. Funding
2. Programs (Cost Centers),
3. Policies and Procedures
4. Partnerships and collaboration
5. Capital Projects – Propose over $10M CIP for new drainage and storm water projects, ditch and streambank repair, retrofits, and studies and special management area plans.

The Plan lays out an evaluation process to measure performance based on an adaptive management process that is a refinement to the annual strategic planning done as part of the budget process.

14. **Metro Region Committee Meeting.** On August 12, 2013, the Board’s Metro Region Committee and staff met with representatives from the CCWD to review and discuss the Plan. Those in attendance from the Board’s Committee were Rebecca Flood, Faye Sleeper, Jack Ditmore and Joe Collins, chair. Board staff in attendance were Metro Region Supervisor Jim Haertel and Board Conservationists Mary Peterson and Brad Wozney. The representatives from the CCWD were Tim Kelly, Administrator, Dawn Doering, Information and Education Coordinator, and Michelle Ulrich, Attorney.
staff recommended approval of the Plan. After discussion, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend approval of the Plan to the full Board.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled.

2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving a Watershed Management Plan for the Coon Creek Watershed District pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 9.

3. The Coon Creek Watershed District Watershed Management Plan attached to this Order defines water and water-related problems within the District’s boundaries, possible solutions thereto, and an implementation program.

4. The attached Watershed Management Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.201 to 103B.251.

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Plan, dated 2013-2023, as the Coon Creek Watershed District Watershed Management Plan.

Dated at Two Harbors, Minnesota this 29th day of August, 2013.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

[Signature]

BY: Brian Napstad, Chair